# CALIFORNIA BEAR LORE.

ENTERPRISE AND SAGACITY OF PACIFIC COAST GRIZZLIES.

ten of Bear Diet and the Ways of Obtaining Them-A She-bear That Mad Learned How to Spring Traps-Good Profits in Bear Hunting, and the Game as Abundant Now as Thirty Years Age.

POMONA, Cal., July 16.-There are as many bears in the upper cations and among the peaks of the Sierras in this region as there were thirty years ago. This statement has been made re-cently by several of the oldest and most experienced bear hunters in the mountains of southern

There's good reason why the black bears and crizzlies are just as common in the remote mountains now as in the sixties, when I first began hunting them," said Mason Docuttle, a hunter of wide reputation, the other day. "It is all because of the clearing of the timber from the mountains. That may seem queer, but it's the truth. When the timber was thick the bears were compelled to skirmish more for food, and had to depend to a great degree on roots and bark, and on the rather scanty supplies which the pig pens and sheepfolds of the scattered ranches afforded them. The clearing of the woods has been followed by the appearance of all kinds of berry bushes, the fruit of which forms the favorite food of the bears. At the same time the cutting of the timber has not disturbed the character of the dense chaparrals, in the confines of which the bears find safe places for breeding. The rocky ledges, with their ravines and caverns, still remain almest unvisited by man, and there the bears find winter lairs as secure and comfortable as when the forests grow above them.

"The signs of hear in this region this year are

most encouraging to the hunter and trapper, but by no means welcome to the ranchman. A ranchman in Strawberry Valley, in the San Jacinto Mountains, has jost twenty-two sheep already by a bear, and the people of the settlement have sent word to me to go and trap him. If you visited the Midwinter Fair in 'Frisco last year you might have seen among the Freeno county exhibits there as immense black bear, finely That bear I killed in the caffon mounted. back of Sanger two years ago. It was the biggest black bear killed in California in twenty-five years. It weighed 556 pounds, and measured eight feet from the snout to the tip of the tail. I shot seven big slugs into it before it lay down. I don't believe I shall ever get over the feeling I had after I had wounded the hig brute and it advanced toward me on its hind legs, uttering terrific roars at every step. I have dreamed hundreds of times that the old fellow was beore me again, at short range, as he was the day we met. If I had missed my last shot at him it would have meant death for me. There was no way of escape up the sides of the rocky canon.

You want to learn how I know that we are roing to find plenty of bears this year. There are lots of ways of finding that out. In early ummer the black bears live in the muddy places at the head of the canon streams, and about the springs that dry up in the middle of the summer. The bears live in the damp spots, and early in the summer, if they are about, the soft black mud along the edge of these places will be broken up as if a herd of cows had been walking through it. At intervals the mud will hollowed out in places eight or ten feet ong, two or three wide, and as many deep. These are wallow holes made by bears. In these holes the bears will wallow and lie and sleep with their noses buried in the muck. Some hunters watch these holes and shoot the bears when they come there to wallow, but as at that time of year their flesh is poor and their fur valueless, such killing of bears is senseless and unprofitable. In looking

jagged, sharp rocks, over fallen logs, around the rocky mountain sides, where even a jackass could not get a foothoid, to a narrow trail up the steep mountain. She never stopped to rest for a moment, but went right along. I followed her, and just about a half a mile from her lair I laid her out. The heifer weighed at least 200 pounds, and the bear would have tipped the beam, if I had had one there, at about 450 pounds, I bave heard of the remarkable strength of gorillas in Africa, but I don't see how any beast can surpass a grizzly for power and endurance.

"If a man is after bears for profit, it is better to trap them than to bunt them. When a bear finds itself caught by the leg in a heavy steel trap it ries to get to a rock, against which it can dash and pound the trap in an effort to break it, and there are instances in which bears have broken traps in that way. Cases of bears gnawing or tearing their legs out of traps are known, and one of the longest bear chases I ever heard of was after a three-legged bear, one of whose legs had been left in a trap.

"In Vetor Valley, five years ago last August, I set three bear traps of heavy steel, and the next day I found that all of them had been aprung by somebody's throwing claudes of wood on the typings. My partner and I studied on that thus for a long time, and we found that an indicate things for a long time, and we found that an indicate the said mother bear that we did not go on a hunt for her, but moved our camp several miles further in the mountains.

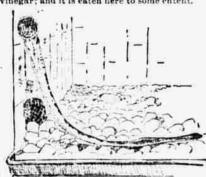
"There are several items of money making from bear that had been badly wounded in a summar trap mad come there and had deliberately sprung our traps. We trak such famey to that old mother bear that we did not go on a hunt for her, but moved our camp several miles further in the mountains.

"There are several items of money making from bear hunt for \$10.5 \$75. It all depends upon how the hunter takes care of the carcass and markets the saids party for them. I generally see a see a see and see a see and see a see

### ABOUT THE LAMPREY.

Sometimes Burrows Into Fish.

The lamprey is often called lamper eel, but it is not an eel. The lampreys form an order by themselves, and are among the lowest of the fish-like vertebrates. The lamprey here pictured is a small one from salt water, now at the New York Aquarium, and is but little more than a foot in length. The salt water lamprey grows to be three feet in length. In Genmany the lamprey is called l'einaugen, on account of the gill openings in its sides, which are from seven to nine in number on each side and look something like eyes, though they are really breathing places. The French and the Germans eat the salt water lamprey, stewed in spices and vinegar; and it is eaten here to some entent.



bears is senseless and unprofitable. In looking for bear signs in early summer we always examine the trees round the damp places to find if any bear has been measuring himself. Bears have a labit of getting up on their forepaws and tearing the bark off as high as they can reach. Some old hunters believe that in doing this the bears are measuring their height to see if they have grown during the winter.

"In the fall bears turn up the stones over large areas looking for crickets, bugs, and slugs. In the late summer and early fall they feed on the wild huckleberries, and blackberries, and when frost comes, up in the higher mountains, they may be found feasting on their faverite fruit, the bearberry. When thee here gene the hunter looks among the scrub onk barrens, for them the bear breaks down acre upon acre of dwarf oaks and feeds upon the acorns. Hornet and yellowjacket nests the bear never passes by in the fall, for of the immature young of these insects, which are found by the thousand in the peets, he is particularly fond. The stingers have no terror for him.

"The choicest morsel to a bear, however, is the care required to the acre in the peets and the peets have no terror for him.

"The choicest morsel to a bear, however, is within which appear numerous concentre." have no terror for him.

"The choicest morsel to a bear, however, is wild honey. He will line a bectree as unerringly within which appear numerous concentric rows of teeth of different shapes and

in the fail, for of the immature young of the intended in the service of the through of the thorough it will be a boar, increase, with honey, the will into a boar, increase the will honey in served. He gives the tree a numerity of the boar is stored. He gives the tree a thorough the boar is stored. He gives the tree a thorough the boar is stored. He gives the tree a thorough the boar is stored. He gives the tree a thorough the boar is stored. He gives the tree a thorough the property of the boar is the stored in the property of the boar is the stored in the property of the boar is the stored in the property of the boar is the stored in the property of the boar is the stored in the property of the boar is the stored in the property of the pr

of coal, or, if the weather was inclement, from the seat of the engineer, where she would six looking out on the track beyond, and go in hunt of micet and if it was lunch hour would hunt up the klichen door of the denot eating house. She was a great favorite, and always had the best the house afforded. She was a beautiful cat. Her fur was jet black, and when the engine was running down the steep grades of the mountains she would hold her place on the top of the tender with all the grace and dignity linaginable, and if the wind was blowing she would ruffle up her black coat of fur as though entering a protest. Puss never missed a trip all the time I was on the road after she took the rail-road fever.

ing a protest. Puss never missed a trip all the time I was on the road after she took the railroad fever.

"When I left the Western puss had to choose between her owner and the big black monster that had carried her so many miles. I remember the day I went out to bid the big finanimate object good-by. I was very much attached to it. Why not? We had come through a wreck together, and it had received the brunt of a collision with a big rock. I hooked at the engine, which was steamed up ready to start on its trip, and soon saw puss mount to her perch on the coal. I spoke tenderly to her, and she arched her back and purred knowingly. When I but the boys good-by and called her she came part way, looked up at me in an undecided manner, and finally gave a pitiful neow and walked off toward the engine again. She kept up her habit for several years after that, and finally was crushed to death in a wreck. She was found curled up on the box by the side of the inanimate form of the engineer. Both had died at the post of duty."

### RURAL SAVANTS ON THE EEL. Some Points About Erl Life that Science

"I notice that science is a little mixed yet on the question of how eels propagate and perpetuate their species, and can't just exactly make up its mind how to settle it," said a New York sportsman, "but if science should take a few trips out along sundry waters where the native resident bobs for cels, and should interview one of the rural savants on the subject, it would get some ideas that might help it along

toward solving the mystery of the eel. "I was fishing for pickerel once in Lake Lamoka, high among the hills of western New York, and found that the lake was literally alive with eels, I asked a bewbiskered and wise-looking citizen of the locality, who was fishing for buildends how he accounted for eels being so plentiful in that lake.

"'Well, sir,' said he, 'l've saw eels from most everywheres sait water, fresh water, muddy water-clear water, still water, and running water, but I never see no eels from any water that had such a coverin' of slime on 'em as the eels in this here lake does. And that's why cels is so uncommon plenty here. They can't help themselves. There's a good growin' o' jest the right kind o' weeds on the bottom o' the lake, and the bushes hangs so low on shore that they dip into the water every here and there. So you see the old cels has the best kind o' rubbin' places, and they leave such a tremendous coatin' of their outside coverin' there that the young of their outside coverin' there that the young cels that grow out of it is simply barrels full every year. Believe it! Believe that's the way eets dreed! Why, don't! know it is? Didn't nobody never tell you that the slimy coatin' on cels is jest like the inside of a hen's egg that hatches out the chicken? Jest e'zac'ly; only it hatches eels 'stell o' chickens. Why, everybody knows that around here!

"And I found that if all the people in that locality didn't know it they firmly believed they did, which was just as good. One veteran

hatches cels sted o' chickens. Why, everybody knows that around here?

"And I found that if all the people in that locality didn't know it they firmly believed they did, which was just as good. One veteran believer that cels were hatches from cel slime deposited on weeds and bushes, said that when he was a bay the bushes were thicker along the shores of the lake than they were now.

"I member one season, said he, 'that somethin' got to allin' the weeds at the bottom o' the lake, and the old cels didn't seem to hanker after 'em, and consequently they come out and rubbed theirselves moren usual on the shore bushes. I never seen such a bearin' o' young cels before nor sence, and there never was. The bushes hung fuiler of 'em than cur'n' bushes does o' curn's, and before they got ready to drop into the water and go to pasturin' on the bottom, the shores o' the lake looked as if a bin' irust lad struck it. The cels had eat ev'ry leaf off o' every bush in sight."

"That is the way they account for the propagation of cels in old Stenten county. Just over the line, in Potter county, Pa, and all along the Allegheny waters, the old-time fishermen, I found, had a theory of their own about how cel reproduction came about. Their belief is that the helibender, whose habitat is the waters of the Ohlo tasin, is the father of cels. The helibender has legs, is probably a lizard, but surely is hideon, and the female helibender lays about one hundred eggs, fastened together es in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together es in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together os in a chain, like from eggs, fastened together on this insistence is that t

referrilly of eels of the litter impossibility of six and thought to cincin my argument by the fact.

"I ourse there aim!" exclaimed the heitbender advocate. And why? The minute cels gits their yes on heitbenders, and it by said by breaks they skitter. They pail out? them waters like the children of Israel makin tracks out of on it. Hellbenders is twelve it all your streams over East, with eels, if you only know'd it."
"I met a binuishle old heberman one mear one of the New York State headwaters of the Susquedana litter, rising within stone-to-sing distance of the Dejaware litter, in Scholante beginning but the eag or a water beefle, deposited in the shell of the free-water claim or rame parameter in the most of the men were weakstring, has travely beginned its shell and died, whereupon the parasite, then a slender worm, west both into the stream, an eel. This annatum, theory of the development of an elone found believers among the inheriter of the trowned Lands of the Waits and the shell and died, whereupon the parasite, then a slender worm, west both into the stream, an eel. This annatum, theory of the development of an elone found believers among the inheriter of the trowned Lands of the Waits and the shell and died, whereupon the parasite, then a slender worm, well to find the shell of the free-water claim or came parameters and the same and th and thought to clinch my argument by the fact of there being no cels in helibender waters.

"Course there ain't exclaimed the helibender advocate." And why? The minute cels gits their eyes on helibenders, and it by and by breaks in on 'em that helibenders are their paps, away they skitter. They pull out o' them waters like the children of Israel makin' tracks out of Egypt, and they hever come back. Why, dog on it! Helibenders is stockin' all your streams over East, with sels, if you only know'd it!

"I men a plausible old fisherman once near the headwaters of the Carbotte fliver, which is

climb for rest. Big bunches of hair are now found on this platform which the seals have scratched out with their flippers, thus expediting nature's processes. The seals are in good health and high spirits. They are great swimmers and remarkably agile. They dart about the pool swiftly, and often they jump more than half out of the water.

## TRY PLUKE FISHING.

There Is Sport in It Naw, and the Catch Is Not to Be Despised.

As the fly fisherman for trout smiles with conscious superiority on the worm fisherman for the same fish, so does the average weakfisherman smile upon the fisherman for fluke. Just the same there is a lot of fun to be had in fluke fishing. and it is not child's play, either. Best of all, the fish, when properly cooked, are mighty good eating. Just now the fluke are running in great quantities, and up to a great weight in some favored spots, and the inexperienced amateur, who merely wants a day's fishing and a good time out on the water, could do many things less satisfactory than fishing for them. There are many places around the city where a day's fluke fishing can be obtained at a nom-

Inal cost, and one of the best places for this fish-

ing is off Bath Beach. There are large sloops

and small boats which make a specialty of it,

and as soon as the tide begins to run out they

The individual bill varies with the number of

persons aboard, as the Captain charges a lump

sum for each trip, but the average cost does not

drop down into the main, or the Swash Channel

exceed \$1 a person, and that includes bait, and often lines, hooks, and sinkere, although it is best to take these along. The boats are perfectly seaworthy, stand up stiff in what little blow may come up, and have a certain amount of shelter in the cabin and hold in case of a storm. The line should be a hand line, for, although the rod may be used, some of the fluke run up to seven or nine pounds each, and they are such peculiar shi to handle that the line rarely tells how high the fish at the other end is. If the fluke sets its flat body at right angles to the line and begins to bear down in its alternyt to get the line between its saw teeth, it is likely to be "good-by fish." A fluke has been known to take a piece of heavy spun yarn, handled by a green hand, and cut it in two, when with any other shat he line would almost have held a whale. The idea is to feel the line very closely, and as soon an actively in the line would almost have held a whale. The idea is to feel the line very closely, and as soon and an idealy in the line would almost have held a whale. The she fluke can only tug. The best line is a good woven hand line, and any shopkeeper will give the right one if asked for it. There should be a fair-sized sinker, with the weight varied according to the run of the tide and the depth of water. It should be heavy enough to hold the bait just dragging along the bottom with the drift. If the sinker is too light the halt will finot too high; if too heavy, it will lie on the bottom and the crabs will get it. The sinker should be dropped as straight as posible in the water, and should be handled very lightly. Bait of several kinds may be used. This week a man caught sixty-nine pounds of fake on cut-up doutish. He was lishing for weakfish and ran out of crab, so went fluking to fill out the day. Another man on the same day landed nineteen pounds with clams for bait, but the lish were small. The best bait is undouthedly 'killies,' and these will be provided by the shop to have a small can write a fair and floated, they will keep alive and fresh for a week. often lines, books, and sinkers, although it is best to take these along. The boats are perfectly seaworthy, stand up stiff in what little blow may come up, and have a certain amount

The most killing half for these gains. The top comparison, or compare the chain and along the river shore, where they party and abong the river shore, and they are all the shore and abong the river shore, and they are all the shore and abong the river shore, and they are all the shore the river shore and abong the river shore and abone the river shore and the river shore

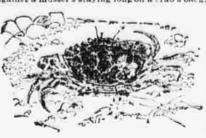
thrown, if it fails to reach the fish, the chain prevents the wearon from going to the bottom; if it reaches the fish an ingenious contrivance hosens it from the fish an ingenious contrivance hosens it from the harpoon, and as the fish daris through the water the protruding end of the staff indicates the course it is taking. The game frequently dies hard, and it is not an uncommon or currence for it to lead the hunter a chase of two or three miles up the river and hack before it is overtaken. When the fish is finally caught, a gaff is driven into it and it is knocked in the head with a harchet.

The fish usually weigh from 175 to 200 pounds, and the carcases bring in the local market from \$15 to \$20, while the ros is sold in Philariciphia for from 75 cents to \$1 a nound. It is not unusual for itoh Magee and Elias Morgerum to take five sturgeon in a day when the son is right. Magee and Morgerum are the most expert of the sturgeon hunters. They have been at the business all their lives, and know every inch of the river from the Perriwig te Easton.

# EATEN AFTER ALL.

Fate of a Mussel That Grew Up on a Sedge

Crab's Back at the Aquartum. There was received at the Aquarium, at Castle Garden, some two or three months ago, along with a lot of other crabs, a sedge or green crab that had a mussel on its back. It is not unusual for mussels to attach themselves to the backs of crabs, but it is rather unusual for them to remain there very long, for they are subject to a variety of dangers. The crab itself would break the mussel off if it could, for the mussel inconveniences it in more ways than one. But it can't always, and so it has to trust to luck for relief. Sometimes luck comes in the shape of a blackfish that sees the crab and makes a grab at it, but gets only the mussel; or the crab might be buried and the mussel project above the bottom, and the blackfish might bete the mussel off deliberately. Then a sheepshead might come along and take in crab, mussel, and all. So, take it altogether, the chances are against a mussel's staying long on a crab's back.



Apparently this particular crab had had the mussel on its back for a long time. The mussel was attached down on the rear part of the crab's back, where the crab couldn't reach it with its pincer claws, and it had escaped the various dangers of the deep. The crab's body was perhaps three inches in length, and its spread of claws eight or nine inches over all: the mussel was about an inch in length. The crab was beautiful in color, as sedge crabs of this size often are. When young, say an inch or so in length, the sedge or green crab is usually all green. It has the power of changing its color somewhat in accordance with its surroundings, and it is sometimes brighter than at other times. At full growth it is usually of a dark bronze green, often almost black. Sometimes the dark upper shell has a reddi-h tinge, and the lighter parts and markings are off dark red or yellow or buff. The crab that had the mussel on its back is of a dark bronze green, with markings of buff. Its claws are green, the muscles or joints pink, and the under body a lighter green. The sedge crab has a short hairy growth from the under ide of the outer cuts of its upper shell, and there is a similar growth upon the upper part of its claws where they come in contact with the shell.

The mussel upon the crab's back was black, except where its outer shell had been rubbed off by sand and gravel as the crab had buried itself. In such places the light blue of its inner shell was shown. Hetween the shell of the mussel and the back of the crab had buried to sunf brown. The mussel was fastened to the crab by byssus threads, the filaments which the muss-lithrows out from inside its shell through the hinge, and ty means of which it holds on to rocks or spiles or whatever it may attach itself to. A single nursel and the mussel on the sedge crab attached itself there when it was very young. The crab may have been lying buried, or partily buried, in the mud. The little mussel, an eighth of an inch in length, carried by the tide, perhaps, may have landed on THE CRAB WITH THE MUSSEL ON ITS BACK

to walk around the tank and bring its back into view, it was seen that the mussel was gone; the little tuft of ulwa was there still, but that was all. Of course, nobody could know certainly just how it happened, but it was probably this way; The mussel, as the crab walked about, opened its shell to feed and put out its fringe, and another crab made a nip at it and the mussel shut in. This was a returnle count hing I shut up. This was a natural enough thing do, but it was fatal to the mussel. When it upt up it closed on the point of the crab's claw, hen the crab swung its other claw around and illed the mussel off the sedge crab's back, and ushed it easily and up it.

### CAVALRY HORSES STILL COSTLY. The General Fall in Price Boes Not Affect

Those Needed for Indian Wars. POMONA, Cal., July 16. "An experience extending over twenty-seven years among the troops on the Western frontier," said Capt. Wallace Crocker, at the Pomona Hotel the other evening, "has made me pretty familiar with the characteristics, especially in a military way, of the red man of North America. I was concerned principally in getting horses for the army for eleven years, and have been on several horse Boards.

"Strange as it may appear in this day of bicycles and electric and cable cars, and the consequent cheapening of horseflesh in every part of the Union, there is more difficulty in presuring suitable remounts for the cavairy ser-

commit their outrages, and they drive a band of loose horses along before them. When a ridden animal shows signs of fatigue another is mounted and the hight continues. Herees are stolen wherever found, and the consequence is that the trioper who is confined to the use of a single animal has a proc chance in the rice. As a general thing they can fluin or escape as they please, and never do the former except in overwhelming numbers. The fatigues of one of these fruitless marches, generally made on short rations to scene celerity of movement, can well be imagined, and the condition of man and beast after a two months' campaign is very wretched.

wretteled.

"When I was a young man we were kept resi-less by the Northern Sioux. They made some of the greatest campaigns ever made by saviges. Then later the Cheyemes and Blackfeet rave us no end of trouble. Next the Southern Sioux and less by the Northern Soux. They made some of the greatest campaigns ever made by savinges. Then later the Cheyennes and Hackfeet rave us no end of trouble. Next the Southern Steax and the Southern Cheyennes and the Araganese on the central piains, and the Comanches and Kiowas of the Atkanas kept us busy all the time. Of all these Indians the Kiowas were the best drilled, it being hard to distinguish them from the dragoons at a distance of two or three miles. The Comanches never deserved their great reputation, as they were poor fighters, doing well against the Mexicans, but never standing against United States troops. The Cheyennes were noted far and wide as the most determined and fercest fighters, but their energies were directed against their hereditary enemies, the Ues, rather than against the whites. The Sloux were the largest and most powerful tribe, and gave us more trouble than any others. They were drilled as the flowas, I myself having seen a single chief direct, 1,000 warriors, scattered over five miles of country, simply by the deshing of a aftite mirror in the hand. The Blackfeet, being foot Indians, were reached more easily, and after one or two lessons never gave any more trouble, although last winter they threatened an outbreak. The Crows and Pawrees, being hated by all other tribes, were our allies and made our best trailers. The Ues, while less daring than the plains Indians, were able to ambush the troops easily. The fighting with them was rathor a run than a combat, and the troops had for many years little chance against them on account of their greatquickness.

"Not until the winter of 1870, when Gen, Nelson A. Miles becan his series of winter campaigns, were the plains Indians thoroughly subdued. That officer followed their trail in the collest weather, drove them from their whiter camps, and, although unable to overtake them, kept them constantly on the move. The Indians, sensitive to cold and ill-provided with clothing, died like sheep of hardship and exposure, and one by one the bands,

### NOT EASY TO GET INTO THE ARMY. Much Care Exercised in Selecting Recruits-Over 80 Per Cent, Rejected.

From the Philodelphia Tomes.
Entering the United States army is more difficult than having your life insured. If a man can successfully answer the searching questions of the recruiting officer and pass the surgeon's examination he may well be proud of himself. And it is necessary to have superior men in the army, for more than ordinary physical and mental stamina are required to chase Apaches over the thirsty deserts of Arizona, trail handits through the thorny chaparral of Texas, fight the wily Sioux in the biting cold of a Dakota winter, and anon stand firm and silent before the taunts and missiles of a howling mobof strikers.

Our army of 25,000 men requires about 8,000 recruits annually to keep it up to full strength. There have been great changes lately in the method of obtaining these men, and more are contemplated by Secretary Lamont. For many

contemplated by Secretary Lamont. For many years it was the custom to collect recruits enlisted in the large cities at what were known as "depots," located in New York harbor, Columbus, O., and St. Louis. There they were kept under instruction three or four months, when they were forwarded in detachments of forty or fifty to regiments. This plan resulted in keeping about 1,500 men constantly out of the ranks; a very serious loss, considering the smallness of the army as a whole.

When the regiments began to move East they were made to recruit for themselves, and they system proved a sincess from the outset. A better class of men were secured, and they joined their companies at once. Over half the recruits culisted last year were obtained this way. The depois have been discontinued as such, and garrisoned with regiments brought from the frontier. Only small detachments of recruits are now kept at each one, and these are sent West just as quickly as enough are assembled to make it worth while. In addition to all this, the number of recruiting stations in the large cities is being reduced as fast as possible, half a dozen having been discontinued during the past year.

There are some thirty of these stations now.

sible, half a dozen having been discontinued during the past year.

There are some thirty of these stations now. Three are in Chicago, two in New York, one each in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and St. Paul, and the remainder in cities of large size throughout the country. Every one is in charge of an officer, who is assisted by a picked party of non-commissioned officers and privates. Outside the Stars and Stripes float gracefully over the door, while a trim orderly paces to and fro, his belt a marvel of polish and his gloves of immaculate while. It is his duty to answer questions and exclude any person who may be objectionable. Inside are the office, the examination room, and the quarters for the party and such recruits as are walting transportation elsewhere. Men are furnished a uniform the moment they chilst, and from that moment also

objectionable. Inside are the office, the examination room, and the quarters for the party and such recruits as are waiting transportation elsewhere. Men are furnished a uniform the moment they enlist and from that moment also are paid and cared for by the Government.

At every station a stream of applicants, good, bad, and indifferent, is constantly coming and going. But those who are in the slightest disgres intoxicated, or who present any visible disqualification, never get past the orderly. That individual has the keen glance of a detective. He has seen hundreds of men come and go in the army, and hos a very accurate idea of the kind that are wanted.

Once before the recruiting officer, the candidate is asked a bong string of questions, the answers to which are recorded and signed by him. This record is filed in the War bepartment, and if at any subsequent time the man is proved to have used deception to obtain enlistment he is tried by court martial and dismissed. In addition to having a good physical record, he must be not under 21 or over 30 years of age, unmarried, able to speak, write, and read the English language, and be vouched for by some responsible party. He must also be a citizen of the United States, or at least have taken out his naturalization papers. Failure to comply with any of those requirements is a cause for instant rejection.

When he gets through this trying ordeal the arbicant breathes a sigh of relief to think his trials are over. But they have just begun. He is immediately led away by a sergeant, who makes him take a bath, and superintends the operation himself to see that it is well done. The surgeon then appears thumps him and whacks him, makes him go through the most unheared for contortions, and finally winds up by converting the examination room into a race track, around which the naked applicant is put through his paces. Then, without warning, the surgeon catches him in his arms, claps his can to his cheet, and listens notarily to the learn beats. If every thing is found norm



Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigention and Too Hearty Fating. A perfact remody our Dissinors, Names, Drow is peys Bad Tartebiths Mouth, Could Tongue are as the Sale, TORPID LIVER. They Regulate the Howels. Purely Vegetable.

Small Pili. Small Dose. Small Price.

usand veterans on the retired list. If a mar omes disabled in line of duty, even though should have just entered the service, he can

understand how enesthird of our soldiers have at least five years' service behind them.

The sortion was a great annoyance in the old days. The War legarithest seem much time in assertations its cause, and finally, as a result of this investigation, instituted a series of reforms in food, by, and other matters. Desertion is now only one-fourth what it was tea years ago.

There was one class of men, however, who seemed to have a manula for "skipping." A case is cited of a man who seemed to make a business of it, having deserted nine times within as many pears. To fild the army of these men, called "repeaters," the plan was adopted of vaccinating every secruit mon the left leg just below the knee. This would enable the surgeon to reject at once a cambidate who had a scar in such a place and who would not show discharge papers.

But the objection was raised that houset men.

such a place and who could not show discharge papers.

But the objection was raised that honest men thus marked would feel branded, and so the system was abandoned. Instead, the surgeons are directed to make an accurate record of the man's height and other neasurements, and to locate on a "figure card" every mark on his besty. This record is sent to the Surgeon-tieneral, who files and indexes it in such a way that he can instantly tell if a duplicate is received at any subsequent time. If such a thing happens an investigation is ordered, and if the man to believed to be a repeater he is brought to trial. So successful has this system proved that repeating is now practically unknown.

### TROUBLESOME CREEK OUTLAWS The Idiosynerasies of an Iowa Gang that Is No Longer Extent.

From the Speciefish Stail. From 1875 till 1883 a reign of terror existed in and around Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, owing to the depredations of a gang of outlaws who lived in the vicinity of Troublesome Creek. in the southwest part of that county, the most notorious of them being the Strohls, the Ander-

sons, and the Mulhollands.

The male members of the Strohl family consisted of the father and two sons, Dode and No religious meeting, spelling school, music class, or social gathering could exist there for an hour without being broken up by the rowdies. They took special delight in cutting harness to pieces and stealing any ivory rings or fancy buckles that might be fastened or attached thereto, and many an unlucky farmer has lead to tie up with ropes and strings what was a new and fancy harness when he drove into Exira to church meeting an hour or two before to enable him to get his vehicle home. A search warrant was sworn out once, and the Strohle's house was searched, and in a trunk in one of the rooms were found 480 ivory rings which had been stolen from harness in that vicinity. The Stronls were accused and arrested for burning a schoolbruse and barn, and the evidence was strong enough to convict them had they been in any community where a jury could have been

obtained that was not afraid of the outlaws,

In 1881 the Strohls and Andersons quarrelled, and Del Anderson stabbed Roil Strohl, who scon recovered, but from that time on a feud existed between the two factions that weakened the outlaws. Some time in the fall or winter of 1882 Dode Strohl was caught in the act of cutting rings off the harness on a team that was standing in front of a church, where the owner was at service. He came out in time to catch Strohl, and in the scuffe time to catch Strohi, and in the soume that ensued Dade statbed him with a knife. He got away, however, and came here to Spearfish, where, he worked for Dad. J. M. Louthan and the writer heroof for some time, and seemed to be famed down considerably. One night in December of that year he was playing a game of cards in Bill Gay's saloon, when he accused one of the players of cheating, who called him a liar. Dode pulled a chance to use it he was looking straight into the barrel of a six-shooter and ordered to put up his knife, which he did with an air of alacrity.

Soon after this occurrence, in January, 1883, he went to Stoneville, Mon., and gambled till some time in February, when he went to Story's camp at the month of Box Elder, about thirly miles northwest of Stoneville. On the night of Feb. 23 he was playing draw poker with Jack Cole, David Lee, and R. Collins. The limit was \$2.30, and it was understood between them that the rules of the game governing fair and honest playing would not be expected; and so cheating or tricks were not closely scanned or objected to. One of the party other than Strohl won a poble by a hand of four fours which he had concalled in his lap, and Lee, betty the loser, remarked that he didn't car about being swindled by a scoundred, but it gailed him to be beaten by a feel. This remark, it was understood, was not made in an angry or insulting sense. Strohl asked if he meant him, to which Lee answered that he could take it or not, just as he chose. Strohl if unped up, drew a knife, and went toward Lee, who drew his revolver and shot Strohl before the latter had time to reach him. The shot entered the left breast near the heart. He threw up his hands saying, "I am killed," and fell to the floor a corpse. Lee was a cowbey in the employ of Hughes & Lumpson, and came from Texas about six months before this occurrence.

On Feb. 17, Just one week before his brother was killed, Roll Strohl was killed at Exira, lowa.

On Feb. 17, sust one week before his brother was killed, Roll Strohl was k that ensued Dode statbed him with a knife,

was killed, Roll Strobl was killed at Exira, lowa, He and another tough from Troublesome Creek named Jesse Mutholland rode into Exira in a sleigh, armed with shofguns, and went through the town browheating and insulting any one whom they happened to meet or see. Marshal Salishny finally told them that if they did not leave town he would arrest them. They got their team, and when ready to leave town they commenced to abuse two young men named Willis and George Hallock sons of the editor and proprietor of the Andubon County Defender, who were standing in front of a livery stable. Strobl raised his gun and told Willis to go into the stable or he would shoot him. Willis promptly obeyed the order. He then ordered George to go in also, but he refused to obey, and Strobl fired, but missed his aim. The citizens anticipated trouble with the outhaws before they left town, and had been prepared for some such occurrence, and just as soon as he fired the shot at Hallock thirty or forty shots were fired at Strobl from the buildings near by. A 44-callibre bullet struck him in the head, just above the right eye, and lodged in the brain, but he didn't die till the next evening at 80 clock. Mulholland was not hurt, and escaped.

Soon after this happened George Hallock had occasion to visit at his uncle's, Ir. Hallock's, at a little town called Oakfield, about five miles south from Extra. Oid man Strobl and Jess Mulholland, who had been waiting for a chance to avenge the death of Roll, followed young Hallock to his uncle's and arrived there in a buggy as George had mounted his horse to ride south from Extra. Oid man Strobl and Jess Mulholland, who had been waiting for a chance to avenge the death of Roll, followed young Hallock to his uncle's her kell, followed young Hallock to his uncle's and arrived there in a buggy as George had mounted his horse to ride side opposite the huggy and began shooting at them, using the herse's back as a rest. The first shot hit Strobl in the neck and severed the main arrey, killing him on the spot

# From the Youth's Companion.

An English merchant was advised by his agent that a check for English would be sent to him by the next mail. It did not come, and the merchant at once made complaint at the Post Office. The postmon on that route was called in by the festimaster, and, in answer to questions, said that the missing packet was duly received and fictivered. He remembered it distinctly its shape, color and postmark. As his habit was, he mid poked it under the house door, with two other letters and a newspaper. The merchant's wife hair picked up three packets, and was positive there had not been a fourth.

The Postmaster went to the house and examined it carefully. Then he looked into the beek garden. His eye lighted on a litter of puppies. A thought struck him.

"Have the doc kennel cleared out, please."
"Nonly have it cleared."
"Neilly have it cleared."
"Well if it must be. Thomas, take out the straw."
On the floor of the kennel, torn into a hundred.

Straw.

On the floor of the kennel, torn into a hundred hits, by the missing letter and check. A current of air along the passage had blown the letter about. The puppies, naturally enough, had passage floor. The puppies, naturally enough, had passage into it as a plaything, and had had a sed time.

Mr. Ratnes, who tells this story in his "Forty years at the Post Office," adds another squally good. A merchant complained of the loss of a letter mailed from his office, containing some intuitively of periods in link of England notes. Finally an expert from the Post Office Department called upen him.

"Isolave me, sir," the expert said, "I have a cheet in what I ask. Will you kindly sit at your desk and recall each operation connected with the missing letters."

"With pleasure. I sit here. I take a sheet of this node gaper and one of these covers. Then I write my letter and fold it up so. Next I go to my safe and take out the notes, enter their number, feld them, pait them in the letter, and the letter that the cover. Then I write in the first and the nature in and clears off my desk for the letter that there is a next the in all has some made and what seat?

"Mass are and what seat?"

"When my clerk comes in and clears off my desk for the letter, for greater security. I put in a left dance in a way this one. I open it so, and a mean teller, for greater security. I put in a left dance in a way they this one. I open it so, and a mean way soulf Goodness me. I am very sorry for the trouble I've given. Here is the interest. Straw."
On the floor of the kennel, torn into a hundred